FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 6, 2002

Contact: Dennis Darnoi (517) 373-1773

SENATOR-ELECT BISHOP TO CHAIR BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

LANSING – In addition to becoming the future Senate Assistant Majority Leader, Senator-elect Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, has been chosen to chair the 2003 Banking and Financial Services Committee by future Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema.

As a member of the House, Bishop received national recognition for his work on behalf of financial literacy. Bishop will travel to Washington D.C. in February to be honored as the first state lawmaker ever to win the Credit Union National Association's (CUNA) National Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award.

"I'm excited by the prospect of continuing to work on the important financial issues facing Michigan families," Bishop said. "With economic challenges on the horizon, it is imperative that we keep Michigan citizens and business on firm financial footing."

The committee is responsible for implementing changes to federal law that directly impacts financial institutions in the state and to make policy changes at the state level when appropriate.

"Representative Bishop will bring experience to the Senate Banking and Financial Services committee," Sikkema said. "His leadership as the vice-chair of the House Commerce committee provides him with the vast knowledge needed to oversee policy changes dealing with Michigan's financial institutions."

Bishop is serving in his second term in the House of Representatives where he has served on such committees as Commerce, Energy and Technology, Redistricting and Elections, Appropriations Subcommittee on Consumer and Industry Services/Economic Development Corporation and Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

-30-

Senate Majority Communications Office - 11th Floor Romney Building 111 S. Capitol - Lansing, MI 48909 - Phone: 517.373.8880 - Fax: 517.373.5693